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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/533,333	05/02/2005	Vesa Ahvenniemi	METSO-40	5143
36528 7590 10/19/2007 STIENNON & STIENNON 612 W. MAIN ST., SUITE 201 P.O. BOX 1667 MADISON, WI 53701-1667			EXAMINER HUG, ERIC J	
			ART UNIT 1791	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/19/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/533,333	Applicant(s) AHVENNIEMI ET AL.	
	Examiner Eric Hug	Art Unit 1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-22 and 25-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31 and 37 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-22 and 25-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32-36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers, ₄

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 32-36 are objected to because of the following:

Claims 32 and 33 each recite "The apparatus of claim **22**". The claims depend on claim 31, therefore should recite "The apparatus of claim 31".

Claim 34 recites that the first draw point "is the only drawing point between the pre-calender and the first draw point" and that the second draw point "is the only draw point between the coater and the second draw point" (emphasis added). It appears that the underlined portions should recite another device. Claims 35 and 36 depend on claim 34.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11-22 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Independent claims 11 and 21 recite "cutting equipment positioned upstream of the finishing stage" (emphasis added). This is an incorrect characterization, as the cutting equipment is arranged within the finishing stage, yet upstream of the single-contact draw point. It is unclear what Applicant is intending to claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 11, 13, 14, 16-21, and 26-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldini (US 5,641,387) in view of Christansen (US 5,517,765) and Alheid (US 4,728,396).

Baldini discloses an online coater apparatus for coating a web of paper in a paper making machine. The apparatus comprises a coater 48 and a drying section 12 downstream of the coater 48. The drying section 12 comprises several single-tier dryer groups 14-20 disposed downstream of one another. See Figure 1. There is an open draw 22 between dryer group 19 and dryer group 20. A tail cutter 24 is disposed adjacent to the open draw for cutting a tail from the paper web, and for subsequent threading of the tail through drying group 20 and subsequent finishing devices. See the left side of Figure 2. Downstream of drying group 20 is another coater 28, a single-tier dryer group 32, and another single-tier dryer group 64, with an open draw 66 between dryer groups 32 and 64. Cutter 67 is disposed adjacent to this draw for cutting a tail and subsequent threading through downstream devices. Similarly, a tail cutter 69 is disposed in an open draw between dryer groups 76 and 78. Thus, shown are three open draws between single-tier dryer groups, each open draw having tail cutters disposed adjacent thereto.

A single-tier drying group includes a plurality of drying cylinders and a plurality a vacuum rolls arranged such that a web passes through the drying group in a sinusoidal

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configuration about alternating drying cylinders and vacuum rolls. A single-tier dryer group also includes a single felt. The felt travels around the cylinders in a manner so that the felt holds the web against the drying cylinders. The structure of a single-tier drying group is illustrated in Christansen. Wherever two or more single-tier drying groups are arranged in succession, an open draw exists. At the beginning of each single-tier drying group, the felt and the first drying cylinder constitute a first point of contact for the web following the open draw.

With respect to Baldini, following each open draw where the threading tail is cut, the tail passes between a drying cylinder and a felt, then follows through successive sections. This reads on the claimed configuration of claims 11 and 21 including cutting equipment and a single-contact draw point in a finishing stage, the cutting equipment positioned upstream of the single-contact draw point. The only element not disclosed by Baldini is a carrier rope system for the tail, however this is a well known feature as exemplified by Alheid, a reference which is recognized by Baldini in column 1, lines 44-53. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art that the online coater apparatus has a rope threading system to assist threading of the tail through the coater, drying groups, and other devices for finishing the paper. Regarding claim 13, one skilled in the art would recognize using water cutters as the tail cutter for quick tail formation without damaging the web. Applicant has also disclosed this in the specification as being a known feature. Regarding claims 14, 16-20 and 26-30, these features are encompassed by the single-tier dryer groups.

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Claims 15 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldini (US 5,641,387) in view of Christansen (US 5,517,765) and Alheid (US 4,728,396) as applied to claims 11 and 21 above, and further in view of Broom (US 6,630,057).

Baldini, discussed above, does not disclose the use of a vacuum conveyor belt to aid in threading a web. Broom discloses a vacuum conveyor belt which aids the transfer of a threading tail over an open draw from one section of a paper machine to another. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to incorporate vacuum conveyor belts in the open draws of the coating section of Baldini for the same reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 12 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 31 and 37 are allowed. Claims 32-36 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections set forth above.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 12 and 22 are allowable for providing measuring elements upstream of the single contact draw point and downstream of the equipment of the finishing stage.

Claim 31 is allowed, and claims 32-33 would be allowable for providing first and second draw points each having only a single dryer cylinder and a single drying wire wrapping the upper portion of the cylinder and forming a web path to broke treatment.

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Claims 34-36 would be allowable for providing first and second draw points formed between a single dryer roll and a single drying wire as being the only drawing point in their respective locations.

Claim 37 is allowed for providing the precalendering and coating finishing stages each with a draw point having only a single dryer cylinder wrapped by a single drying wire.

Response to Arguments

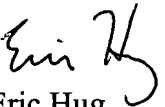
In response to the arguments filed with the preliminary amendment on September 11, 2007, no new matter has been added by amending the claims to include those of copending US Application No. 10/533,626 (now new claims 31-37). It is noted that those claims were rejected under Baldini (US 5,641,387) in US 10/533,626, but upon reconsideration, claims 31-37 are deemed to be allowable over Baldini.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Eric Hug
Primary Examiner